

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00
INRE-00 SCS-03 SCA-01 OPR-02 MMO-01 SY-05 FBO-02
OC-06 CCO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
/082 W

-----261541Z 125831 /53

O 261452Z APR 77

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4179

INFO AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

ADDIS ABABA IMMEDIATE 724

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, ET, US

SUBJECT: CLOSURE OF CONSULATES IN ASMARA

REF: STATE 092355

1. APRIL 25 BEING ITALIAN NATIONAL HOLIDAY, WE WERE NOT
ABLE TO GET DEFINITIVE RUNDOWN ON ITALIAN VIEW ON CONSULAR
CLOSURES UNTIL THIS MORNING.

2. ITALIAN AMBASSADOR GUIDI, ON INSTRUCTIONS FROM ROME,
MADE DEMARCHE APRIL 25 TO EPMG MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS.
HE REQUESTED, FIRST, REVOCATION OF THE CLOSURE ORDER, THEN
EXTENSION OF THE TIME LIMIT. RESPONSE TO BOTH WERE FLAT
NEGATIVES. GOI CONSIDERS THAT, IN CIRCUMSTANCES, IT HAS
NO OPTION BUT COMPLIANCE, AND PLANS TO HAVE ITS PERSONNEL
OUT OF COUNTRY BY COB APRIL 27. THERE REMAINS A QUESTION
AS TO WHETHER LOCALLY HIRED ITALIAN-CITIZENS EMPLOYEES
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OF ASAMRA CONGEN ARE COVERED BY THE ORDER. GUIDI IS
HOPING THAT AT LEAST SOME WILL BE ALLOWED TO REMAIN,
TO PROVIDE UNOFFICIAL BUT IMPORTANT POINTS OF CONTACT
WITH ITALIANS REMAINING RESIDENT IN ERITREA.

3. A MAJOR GOI CONCERN, STEMMING LARGELY FROM SHORT
FUSE, IS SHUTTING DOWN AND SECURING SOME DOZEN PIECES OF

REAL ESTATE (HOUSES, OFFICER AND FIVE SCHOOLS OWNED AND OPERATED BY GOI). THINKING NOW IN FONMIN IS THAT ONLY RECOURSE IS TO "SEAL" THEM AND HOPE SEALS WILL NOT BE BROKEN. GUIDI IS TRYING TO WORK OUT SOME MORE SATISFACTORY SOLUTION.

4. ITALIAN CIVILIANS STILL RESIDENT IN ERITREA ARE ESTIMATED AT ABOUT 1,500, OF WHICH SOME 1,100 IN ASMARA AND 3 OR 4 HUNDRED ELSEWHERE. ESTIMATE ABOUT 300 ARE "HARDCORE", SO THOROUGHLY INTEGRATED INTO ERITREAN SCENE THAT THEY WILL "NEVER" LEAVE. GOI WILL "DO NOTHING TO ENCOURAGE" OTHERS TO REMAIN BUT, FOR FEAR OF ADVERSE EPMG REACTION, WILL MAKE NO PUBLIC MOVE TO STIMULATE THEIR DEPARTURE. SIMILARLY, GOI TENTATIVELY PLANS NO PUBLIC PROTEST ON GROUNDS IT WOULD DO NO GOOD AND MIGHT MAKE LIFE HARDER FOR ITALIANS OPTING TO REMAIN.

5. ACCORDING FONMIN, EPMG HAS CREATED TWO "COMMISSIONS" TO DEAL WITH ETHIOPIAN/ITALIAN PROBLEMS RELATED TO CLOSURE ORDER, ONE IN ASMARA AND ONE IN ADDIS. GUIDI MET WITH ADDIS COMMISSION (COMPOSITION SO FAR UNKNOWN) AT 0900 LOCAL TODAY, BUT HIS TELEPHONED REPORT TO FONMIN WAS CAUTIOUSLY PHRASED AND NOT VERY ENLIGHTENING. GOI IS PLEASED THAT "THERE IS AT LEAST" A POINT OF CONTACT WITH EPMG. PERHAPS SOMETHING WILL BE WORKED OUT WITH THE COMMISSIONS WHICH WOULD PERMIT SCHOOLS TO STAY OPEN; OPTION IS IN GUIDI'S HANDS.

6. OUR SOURCES ARE NOT YET SURE WHAT WILL BE DONE IN REGARD TO LOCAL (NON-ITALIAN) EMPLOYEES OF HTE CONGEN BUT SPECULATE THERE WILL BE NO CHOICE BUT TO DISMISS THEM.
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7. SEPTTEL COVERS GOI SPECULATION ON POLITICAL BACKGROUND AND SIGNIFICANCE OF CLOSURE ORDER. GARDNER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLICIES, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS, CONSULATE CLOSING
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 26-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977ROME06683
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
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Format: TEL
From: ROME
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770418/aaaaaphm.tel
Line Count: 100
Litigation Code IDs:
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Litigation History:
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